

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the claims are amended merely to clarify the recited subject matter and a new title is submitted. Claims 1-17 are pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable in view of Osawa et al. (US 5,473,642; hereafter “Osawa”) and DeLuca et al. (US 5,173,688; hereafter “DeLuca”). Applicants traverse the rejection because the cited prior art references, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

For example, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed method for controlling a point-to-multipoint transmission of a message in a mobile communication system, the method comprising “determining a life time for the message, and deleting the message from the buffer in response to the expiry of the life time,” as recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims. Similarly, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed mobile communication system including at least one service centre “arranged to determine the remaining life time of the message and to check before transmitting the message, whether there is life time left and to transmit the message only if there is still life time left,” as recited in independent claim 11 and its dependent claims. Further, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed network element comprising “means for determining the remaining life time of a message to be transmitted point-to-multipoint, and means for transmitting said message according to the scheduling of the message if there is still time left,” as recited in independent claim 14 and its dependent claims.

Osawa merely discloses a data communication system wherein only one logical link is established for a broadcast session. The sending station sends a request signal that contains a logical link number of an idle logical link, and upon receiving the request signal, the receiving stations transmit an acknowledgement signal via the logical link. The sending station increments a count value for a predetermined timeout period and broadcasts the message over the established link when the count value exceeds a threshold value. More specifically, as taught at column 2, lines 26 to 31 and column 2 lines 35 to 65, an acknowledgement timer is used to control the interval of collecting acknowledgements by means of a variable “j” of a counter in the sending station. The acknowledgement timer is a conventional timer of the sending station and corresponds to controlling the transmission of a message according to a predetermined schedule.

To the contrary, the claimed invention relates to a solution for controlling the transmission of a message to be transmitted point-to-multipoint in a mobile communication system. The message is given a precise lifetime to ensure that a point-to-multipoint message is transmitted only as long as it is up to date. Once the life time expires, the message is deleted from the transmission buffer. As a result, a service requester can safely transmit even short-lived information because the requester knows that the information is received only as long as it is valid. Moreover, deletion of obsolete messages saves network resources and, recipients do not have to concern themselves with messages that may already be out of date.

Therefore, Osawa fails to disclose, teach or suggest determining a lifetime for a message. Rather, the acknowledgement period of Osawa corresponds merely to a static time interval configured into the sending station, during which the sending station receives acknowledgements. At the end of the acknowledgement period, the sending station checks whether the condition for sending the message is met, and if affirmative, sends the message. Furthermore, as noted by the Office Action, Osawa fails to disclose, teach or suggest deleting a message from a buffer in response to the expiry of the lifetime.

DeLuca fails to remedy the deficiencies of Osawa because DeLuca merely describes a selective call receiver where a message can be received without disturbing the user. The passage cited by the Office Action (column 7, lines 20 to 24) fails to relate to deletion of a message from a memory location; rather, that passage merely discloses proceeding to a next display by incrementing a page counter. Similarly, at column 6, lines 52 to 56, DeLuca actually teaches how messages are displayed for a period set out by a timeout timer, and how the displayed message is deleted from the display when a message has been displayed. Therefore, the passages of DeLuca cited in the Office Action merely teach dealing with display of received messages not determining a lifetime for a point-to-multipoint message, or deleting the message from the buffer before transmission in response to the expiry of the lifetime.

In fact, the combined teachings of Osawa (teaching a static timer for controlling the duration of transmission to mobile stations) and DeLuca (teaching direct transition to a next message after the expiry of the static timer) would, at best, merely provide a situation where neither the sender or the receiver could have control or information regarding the expected validity of messages.

Therefore, the teachings of Osawa and DeLuca, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to teach determining a lifetime for a point-to-multipoint message, or

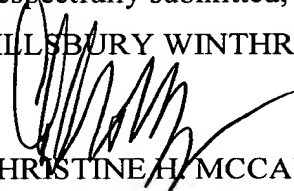
deleting the message from the buffer in response to the expiry of the life time, as recited in the rejected claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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